

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-03 OES-02 /009 W

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R 060612Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2578

LIMDIS

ROME PASS US MISSION FAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP:AORG:EAGR:(BILLINGSLEY, RAY)

SUBJECT: ESCAP:AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR DIVISION CHIEF

REF: STATE 18355

1. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY RAY BILLINGSLEY, DEPUTY CHIEF ESCAP/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION, TO SUPPORT HIS CANDIDACY FOR DIVISION CHIEF. REQUEST REQUIRES OUR DOUBLE SUPPORT NOT ONLY WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS BUT ALSO WITH FAO ROME BECAUSE POSITION IS AN FAO SLOT ON BASIS OF 22 YEAR-OLD ESCAP/FAO AGREEMENT.

2. BILLINGSLEY CLAIMS CURRENT CHIEF KAWAKATSU WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE LAST JUNE, WAS EXTENDED UNTIL END DECEMBER AND AGAIN UNTIL END MARCH 1976. KAWAKATSU (WHO STILL HOPES FOR PROFESSORSHIP AT UN UNIVERSITY TOKYO) IS STILL FIGHTING FAO REGIONAL DIRECTOR UMALI WHO HAS BEEN SENDING CABLES TO FAO ROME RECOMMENDING BILLINGSLEY BE APPOINTED IMMEDIATELY AS ACTING CHIEF UNTIL NEW ONE CHOSEN. UMALI HAS INCORRECTLY BEEN INFORMING ROME THAT MARAMIS SUPPORTS HIS RECOMMENDATION.

3. TO DATE BILLINGSLEY HAS NOT CONSULTED WITH NOR HEARD
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FROM MARAMIS, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS MARAMIS HAS ALWAYS

SUPPORTED KAWAKATSU AND RECOGNIZED SLOT AS JAPANESE. KAWAKATSU APPROACHED JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE (FO) TO SUPPORT BILLINGSLEY AS CHIEF AND THEN CLAIM DEPUTY SLOT FOR JAPANESE, BUT FO INSISTED DIVISION CHIEF SLOT WAS JAPANESE AND WOULD NOT GIVE IT UP WITHOUT STRONGER ARGUMENTS (KAWAKATSU BELIEVES JAPAN WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY FILLING THIS CONTROVERSIAL POSITION AND NOTES JAPAN ALREADY HAS DIVISION CHIEF HIRONO OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. ALSO, KAWAKATSU KNOWS JAPAN SEEKING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL SLOT IN FAO; IF OBTAINED, JAPAN MIGHT SACRIFICE ITS PRESENT HOLD ON ESCAP/FAO DIVISION CHIEF.)

4. KAWAKATSU CLAIMS MARAMIS AND HIRONO OFFERED AGRICULTURE DIVISION CHIEF POSITION TO PRC, BUT LATTER NEVER REPLIED.

5. BILLINGSLEY ASKS US SUPPORT HIM FOR DIVISION CHIEF SLOT AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ASKS FAO ROME TO MAKE HIM D-1 FOR THIS POSITION WHICH IS FAO CONTROLLED. BILLINGSLEY IS NOW P-5.

6. COMMENT: IT SOUNDS LIKE A LARGE ORDER, BUT WE THINK WE SHOULD MAKE A STAB AT IT IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO INDICATE OUR SUPPORT FOR AN AMERICAN EMPLOYEE IN ESCAP AND TO KEEP PRESSURE ON MARAMIS FOR AN AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF TO REPLACE POPULATION CHIEF LOSS. BILLINGSLEY, AN EXTREMELY WELL QUALIFIED AGRICULTURE ECONOMIST FROM TEXAS A AND M, HAS BEEN HERE JUST ONE YEAR. HE SEEMED RATHER NAIVE AT FIRST BUT APPARENTLY HAS BECOME MORE SKILLFUL IN ASIAN INTRIGUE UNDER TUTELAGE OF KAWAKATSU, WHO IS STILL A CLOSE FRIEND. WE DOUBT BILLINGSLEY WILL STAY ON MUCH LONGER IF HE DOES NOT GET DIVISION CHIEF JOB; HIS TENURE IN TEXAS MAY BE RUNNING OUT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO02578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0942
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760276/aaaacoue.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 18355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAP:AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR DIVISION CHIEF
TAGS: AORG, EAGR, US, ESCAP, (BILLINGSLEY, RAY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006